The City University of New York has awarded its prestigious Jonas E. Salk Scholarships for medical study to eight graduates in recognition of their outstanding research on subjects including neuroscience, cancer, genetics and molecular biology.

The Salk Scholarships recognize the high ability and scholarship of students who plan careers in medicine and the biological sciences and who are judged likely to make significant contributions to medicine and research. They are selected on the basis of original research papers undertaken with prominent scientist mentors.

Salk, a 1934 City College graduate, developed the polio vaccine in 1955. He turned down a ticker-tape parade that was offered to honor his discovery, asking that New York City use the money for scholarships. The City provided initial funding for the Salk Scholarships in 1955.

The endowment provides a stipend of $8,000 per scholar, to be appropriated over three or four years of medical studies to help defray medical school costs. Salk Scholars also receive achievement citations and diagnostic kits that include an otoscope and ophthalmoscope.

The 2015 Salk Scholars hail from Hunter College, City College, York College and The College of Staten Island, as well as the Macaulay Honors Colleges at Brooklyn College and Queens College. Scholars were accepted at the medical schools of Mount Sinai, Albert Einstein, New York Institute of Technology, New York Medical College and SUNY Downstate.

The Salk Scholarships were awarded on Tuesday, May 12 at 9 a.m. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The winners are:

Anna Koslova (Macaulay Honors College at Brooklyn College 2015)
SUNY Downstate Medical School
Diane Kogan (Hunter College 2015)
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
Ebrahim Afshinneko (Macaulay Honors College at Queens College 2015)
New York Medical College
Syed Farrukh Haider (City College of New York 2014)
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Esther Rong (Hunter College 2015)
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Kyla-Gaye Pinnock (York College 2013)
SUNY Downstate College of Medicine
Hope Miodownik (Queens College 2015)
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Anton Mararenko (College of Staten Island 2015)
New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine